

January 20 – April 3, 2003

Everyone's Reading...

Baldwin Public Library

Bloomfield Township
Public Library

Canton Public Library

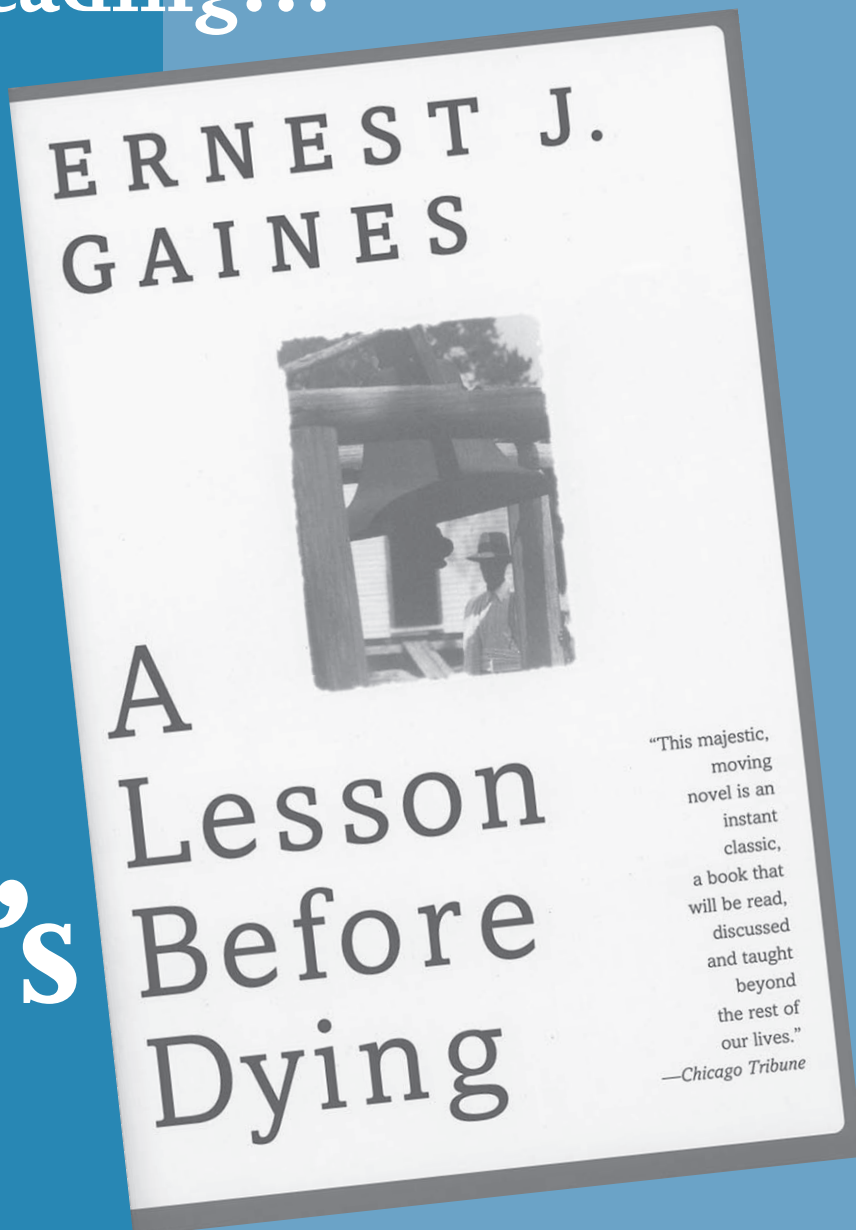
Farmington Community
Library

Independence Township
Library

Rochester Hills
Public Library

West Bloomfield Township
Public Library

Reader's Guide



HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN

Everyone's Reading... A Lesson Before Dying?

Step 1: Get the book.

Get the book! Check out ***A Lesson Before Dying*** at your local public library or buy your own copy at an area bookstore.

Step 2: Read.

Read! Between January 20 and April 3, 2003, join your family, friends, coworkers, neighbors or fellow students in reading the same book.

Step 3: Use this Reader's Guide.

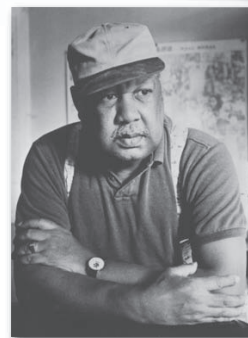
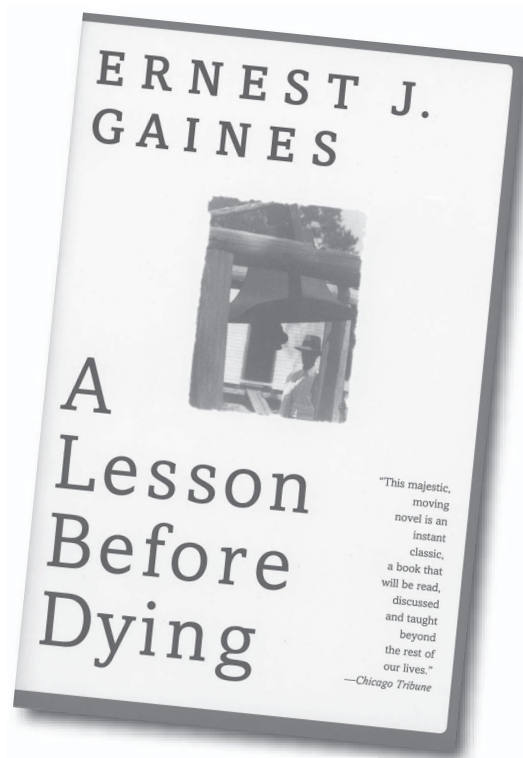
A team of librarians developed this free reader's guide to help you get the most from reading ***A Lesson Before Dying***. The guide is available at participating libraries, online at **www.everyonesreading.org** or through your local public library's web site.

Step 4: Discuss.

Discuss! Come to one of the discussion groups listed in the reader's guide or organize your own book discussion at your school, home, place of worship or anywhere.

Step 5: Participate!

Hear Ernest Gaines in person at one of the following lectures on Thursday, April 3, 2003:
Farmington Community Library at 3:30 p.m.
Birmingham Community House at 7:30 p.m.
(More lecture information on page 4)



LIBRARY DISCUSSION GROUPS AND LIBRARY EVENTS

Booktalks

Listen to a review of ***A Lesson Before Dying*** and join in a discussion about the book at the following libraries:

"Between the Lines"
book discussion group
Rochester Hills Public Library
Wednesday, January 29 from
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 30 from
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Between the Lines book discussions
are limited to residents; please call
(248) 650-7150 to register.

Booktalk at the Costick Center
Thursday, February 6 at 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the Farmington
Community Library

Professor Kathleen Pfeiffer from
Oakland University will facilitate
a discussion about Ernest J. Gaines
and ***A Lesson Before Dying***
Rochester Hills Public Library
Tuesday, February 11 from
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Call (248) 650-7150 to register.

"Lunch and a Book" Book Group
Canton Public Library
Thursday, February 13 at Noon

Evening Book Discussion Group
Independence Township Library
Tuesday, February 18 from
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday Afternoon book group
Baldwin Public Library
Wednesday, March 12 at 2:00 p.m.

"Cover to Cover" Book Group
Bloomfield Township Public Library
Thursday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m.
Please register for this discussion
in person or call the library at
248-642-5800.

Reading Gaines
Rabbi Sherwin Wine will explore
A Lesson Before Dying and other
Ernest J. Gaines novels.
Baldwin Public Library
Wednesday, March 26 from
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Book discussion group
Farmington Branch Library
Thursday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Book discussion facilitated by
Dr. Steve Berman
West Bloomfield Township Public Library
Thursday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Book discussion facilitated by
Adele Robins.
Bloomfield Township Public Library
Friday, March 28 at 1:00 p.m.
Please register for this discussion
group in person or by calling the
library at 248-642-5800.

Daytime Book Discussion Group
Independence Township Library
Thursday, April 3 from
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Other "Everyone's Reading" library events

Men of Grace choir perform
gospel-blues music. Music and
religion play an important role in ***A Lesson Before Dying*** and this choir will
perform
spirituals and hymns reminiscent
of the day.

Rochester Hills Public Library
Monday, January 20 from
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Thursday Evening book group
will discuss ***The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*** by Ernest J. Gaines
Baldwin Public Library
Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m.

View the Emmy award-winning
HBO film of ***A Lesson Before Dying***
Baldwin Public Library
Sunday, March 16 from
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 19 from
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

African-American spirituals
and sacred music performed
by Tiana Marquez
West Bloomfield Township Public Library
Sunday, March 30 from
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

For additional information and
other events, check out our web site

ERNEST J. GAINES

The world into which Ernest James Gaines was born on January 15, 1933 is essentially the world that he has distilled into the dense and complex world of his six novels and his stories. The land around River Lake Plantation - near New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana - is the land around the Pichot plantation, near Bayonne, St. Raphael Parish, presented in ***A Lesson Before Dying***. The black community in which Gaines grew up became "the quarter" of this 1993 novel, as well as providing the setting and social matrix of his previous works. The author's vision of Henri Pichot's cane fields stems directly from the fields in which Gaines himself worked as a child. As Gaines has said: "Though the places in my stories and novels are imaginary ones, they are based pretty much on the place where I grew up and the surrounding areas where I worked, went to school and traveled as a child. My characters speak the way people speak in that area." Gaines also has drawn considerably on the mores of black culture and the storytelling traditions of rural Louisiana. The result is a prose that is at once exact, idiomatic, stately and true to the spoken language of actual people.

In his own words:

"We all know--at least intellectually--that we're going [to die]. The difference is being told, 'Okay, it's tomorrow at 10 a.m.' How do you react to that? How do you face it? That, it seems to me, is the ultimate test of life."

"When I speak to black students about Hemingway, they often ask me what I expect them to learn from 'that white man.' I tell them: 'All Hemingway wrote about was grace under pressure. And he was talking about you. Can you tell me a better example of grace under pressure than our people for the past three hundred years? Grace under pressure isn't just about bullfighters and men at war. It's about getting up every day to face a job or a white boss you don't like but have to face to feed your children so they'll grow up to be a better generation.'"

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A Lesson Before Dying won the 1993 National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction, the most recent of numerous awards that Gaines has received. A Wallace Stegner fellow in 1957, a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant (1967), a Guggenheim fellow (1971), and a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation fellow (1993), Mr. Gaines has steadily been recognized for his achievement as a master of the novel and short story. In addition, one of his novels, ***The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*** (1971), has become an undisputed classic of twentieth-century American literature and gave rise to the immensely popular, award-winning TV-movie adaptation starring Cicely Tyson.

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A VISIT FROM ERNEST J. GAINES

A VISIT

Meet Ernest J. Gaines at one of these events,
sponsored by the YES Foundation:

Reception

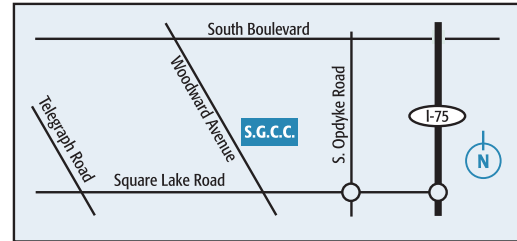
Wednesday, April 2 from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

St. George Cultural Center

43816 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills

Copies of ***A Lesson Before Dying*** will be for sale,
and Mr. Gaines will sign books.

Cost: \$50 Per person



Author Appearance

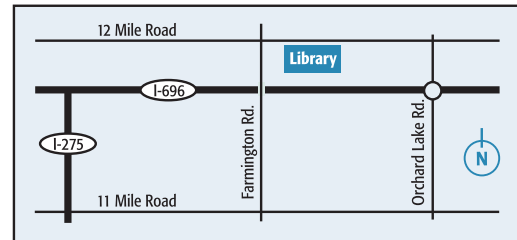
Thursday, April 3, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Farmington Community Public Library

32737 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills

248-553-0300

No charge



Author Appearance

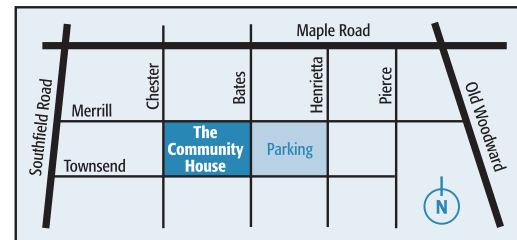
Thursday, April 3, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Birmingham Community House

380 South Bates St., Birmingham

248-644-5832

No charge



Mr. Gaines's appearances are sponsored by the YES Foundation with support from:

UAW-GM, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Infinity Corporation, Global Hue, Kerr-McGee Corporation,
Detroit Youth Foundation, Wayne State University

U. S. HISTORICAL TIMELINE FOR

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

1870

- Pinkney B. S. Pinchback, a black man, wins the Governor's race in Louisiana.

1872

- The first of the Jim Crow laws, such as poll taxes and establishing property requirements for voting, are enacted. Creoles are classified as black under these laws.

1896

- U.S. Supreme Court upholds segregation in *Plessy vs. Ferguson*. It says Jim Crow laws are constitutional actions by the states; separate but equal is not discriminatory.

1900

- Louisiana has established poll taxes, literacy tests, and property requirements to discourage blacks from voting. There were 1,342 registered black voters, compared to 130,344 four years previously in Louisiana.

1919

- Migration to the North began 3 years earlier. Since then, half a million blacks have left agricultural areas of the South for cities like New York, Chicago and Pittsburgh.

1924

- Membership in the Ku Klux Klan is estimated to be 3 million.

1930

- By this time, 283 blacks have become lynching victims in Louisiana since 1882.

1940

- Richard Wright publishes *Native Son*.

1943

- First lunch counter sit-ins take place in Chicago.
- Race riots in Detroit leave 34 dead, 675 injured, and in Harlem leave 6 dead.

1946

- National Committee on Civil Rights created by Harry Truman to investigate racism in America.

1947

- Jackie Robinson integrates professional baseball.
- Supreme Court rules in *Patton vs. Mississippi* against strategies that exclude African Americans from juries.

1948

- President Truman ends segregation in the Armed Forces.
- 'White supremacy' champion Herman Talmadge wins the Georgia Democratic gubernatorial primary in a campaign directed against Truman's civil rights program.
- Federal court in Oklahoma City rejects pleas by black student George McLaurin that he be allowed to attend classes at Oklahoma University on a non-segregated basis.
- National Executive Council of Phi Kappa Psi upholds suspension of the fraternity's Amherst chapter for admitting a black man.

1949

- William Morris, leader of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan, goes to jail in Birmingham for refusing to give a federal grand jury lists of Klan members.
- Georgia Supreme Court upholds a state law intended to curb the black vote by ordering all voters to reregister.
- Federal court in Birmingham, Alabama rules that the city's racial zoning laws are unconstitutional.

1952

- No reported lynchings for the first time since 1882 in the U.S.

1953

- First bus boycott starts in Baton Rouge, LA.

1954

- Supreme Court rules in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

1955

- Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery.

1956

- Strom Thurmond and some of the more rigid segregationist members of the U.S. Congress draft 'The Southern Manifesto', declaring the Supreme Court decision ordering school desegregation was illegal.

Timeline Sources:

Braziel, Jana Evans. "History of Lynching in the United States." [Online] 8 August 2002.
<www.umass.edu/complit/aclanet/ACLAText/USLynch.html>.

"Race in America: A Historical Timeline." [Online] 5 September 2002.
<www.worldmag.com/world/issue/08-2501/cover_2.asp>.

"NAACP Timeline." [Online] 23 August 2002.
<www.naACP.org/past_future/naacptimeline.shtml>.

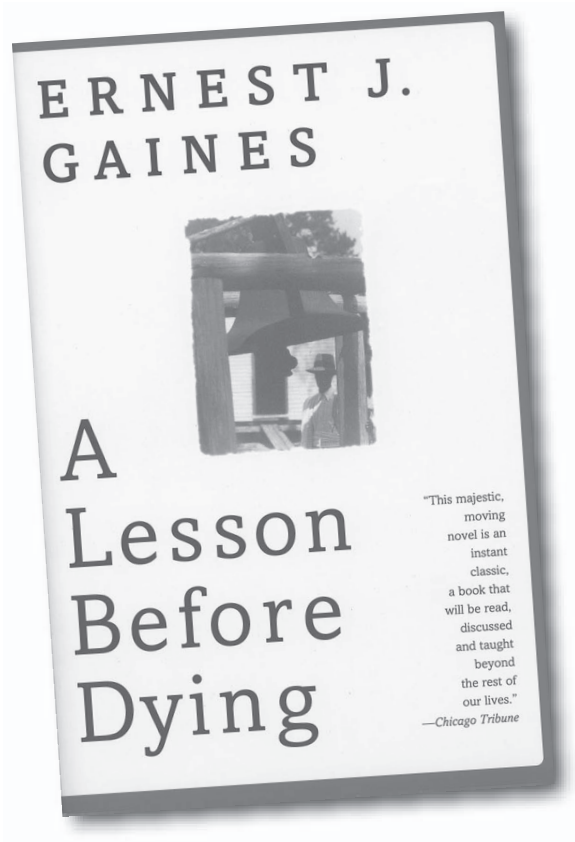
"A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." [Online] 15 August 2002.
<www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/mlking.htm>.

Rourke, Thomas. "Strom Thurmond Biography." [Online] 5 September 2002.
<www.strom.clemson.edu/strom/bio.html>.

"History of the Ku Klux Klan." [Online] 6 September 2002.
<www.africana.com/Articles/tt_111.htm>.

Horton, James Oliver and Lois E. Horton. *Hard Road to Freedom: The Story of African America*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, c2001.

SYNOPSIS OF *A LESSON BEFORE DYING*



In a small Louisiana town in the late 1940s, a young black man is tried for the murder of a white shopkeeper. Though an innocent bystander, Jefferson is convicted and condemned to death. In an effort to spare his client the electric chair, a white defense attorney argues that Jefferson is simple, like a hog, little more than a beast. The condemned man seems to accept this humiliation, inhabiting his cell like an animal, refusing to talk. Miss Emma, Jefferson's godmother, enlists the plantation schoolteacher, Grant Wiggins, to make contact with her godson in prison. She wants Jefferson's manhood and dignity restored before the date of the execution. Grant, the narrator, doubts initially that this can be accomplished. A gift for Jefferson from Grant's pupils, however, touches the prisoner's heart. Jefferson comes to keep a diary and embrace the message that Grant imparts. Jefferson is a man loved by his godmother and by his community, whom he represents. They are depending upon him to meet this unjust punishment, imposed by a racist authority, with dignity and strength.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS

With this book, only one question really needs to be asked: What is the lesson learned and who learned it? Here are some questions that can be used to enrich your discussion and understanding of the book.

1. All the characters in **A Lesson Before Dying** are motivated by a single word: “hog.” Jefferson’s attorney has compared him to a hog; Miss Emma wants Grant to prove that her godson is not a hog; and Jefferson at first eats the food she has sent him on his knees, because “that’s how a old hog eat.” How are words used both to humiliate and to redeem the characters in this novel?
2. Grant’s task is to affirm that Jefferson is not a hog, but a man. The mission is doubly difficult because Grant isn’t sure he knows what a man is. What definition of manhood, or humanity, does **A Lesson Before Dying** provide? Why is manhood a subversive notion within the book’s milieu?
3. At various points in the book, Gaines draws analogies between Jefferson and Jesus. One of the first questions Jefferson asks his tutor concerns the significance of Christmas: “That’s when He was born, or that’s when He died?” Jefferson is executed eight days after Easter. In what other ways is this parallel developed? In particular, discuss the scriptural connotations of the word “lesson.”
4. For all the book’s religious symbolism, the central character is a man without faith. Grant’s refusal to attend church has deeply hurt his aunt and antagonized Reverend Ambrose, whose religion Grant at first dismisses as a sham. Yet at the book’s climax, he admits that Ambrose “is braver than I,” and he has his pupils pray in the hours before Jefferson’s death. What kind of faith does Grant acquire in the course of this book? Why does the Reverend emerge as the stronger of the two men?
5. One of the novel’s paradoxes is that Ambrose’s faith - which Grant rejects because it is also the white man’s - enables him to stand up against the white man’s “justice.” How do we resolve this paradox? How has faith served African-Americans as a source of personal empowerment and an axis of communal resistance?
6. Grant believes that black men in Louisiana have only three choices: to die violently, to be “brought down to the level of beasts,” or “to run and run.” How does the way in which Gaines articulates these grim choices--and suggests an alternative to them--make **A Lesson Before Dying** applicable not only to Louisiana in 1948 but to the United States today?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7. Women play a significant role in the book. Examine the scenes between Grant and Tante Lou, Grant and Vivian, and Jefferson and Miss Emma, and discuss the impetus that Gaines's women provide his male characters. In what ways do these interactions reflect the roles of black women within their families and in African-American society?

8. *A Lesson Before Dying* is concerned with obligation and commitment. Discuss this theme as it emerges in the exchanges between Emma Glenn and the Pichots, Grant and Vivian, and Grant and the Reverend Ambrose. What are the debts these people owe each other? In what ways do they variously try to honor, evade, or exploit them?

9. Like Faulkner and Joyce, Gaines has been acclaimed for his evocation of place. In ***A Lesson Before Dying***, his accomplishment is all the more impressive because of the book's brevity. What details in this book evoke its setting, and what is the relation between its setting and its themes?

10. From the manslaughter that begins this novel to the judicial murder at its close, death is a constant presence in ***A Lesson Before Dying***. We are repeatedly reminded of all the untimely, violent deaths that have preceded Jefferson's and, in all likelihood, will follow it. Why then is Jefferson's death so disturbing to this book's black characters, and even to some of its white ones? What does Jefferson's death accomplish that his life could not?

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More questions to think about:

How does Gaines create a sense of time for the reader? What are some of the clues that indicate when the story takes place?

What, according to Grant, is the burden of the educated black man?

Why is Grant so opposed to visiting and talking to Jefferson in jail?

Explain the role food plays in the life of this community. Why is it so important to Miss Emma that Jefferson eat her food each time she sends it or takes it to the jail? Why does he at first refuse to eat, but begin to accept food when the children send him nuts?

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Grant recalls that when he read a James Joyce story in college, he couldn't find "the universality" of it - he couldn't see what it had to do with him and his people. How universal is ***A Lesson Before Dying***?

Works by Ernest J. Gaines

Catherine Carmier, Atheneum, 1964.

Of Love and Dust, Dial, 1967.

Bloodline, Dial, 1968, Vintage Contemporaries (New York City), 1997.

A Long Day in November (story originally published in *Bloodline*), Dial, 1971.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, Dial, 1971.

In My Father's House, Knopf, 1978.

A Gathering of Old Men, Knopf, 1983.

A Lesson Before Dying, Knopf, 1993.

More Information about Ernest J. Gaines

Check your local library for availability

Babb, Valerie Melissa. **Ernest Gaines**. Boston: Twayne, 1991.

Carmean, Karen. **Ernest J. Gaines: a Critical Companion**. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 1998.

Estes, David C., ed. **Critical Reflections on the Fiction of Ernest J. Gaines**. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1994.

"Ernest J. Gaines" **Contemporary Authors. New Revision Series**, vol. 75. Detroit, MI: Gale Group, 1999. Available online through Literature Resource Center.

"Ernest J. Gaines" **Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 152: American Novelists Since World War II, Fourth Series**. Detroit, MI: Gale Research. 1995. Available online through Literature Resource Center.

Conversations with Ernest Gaines, edited by John Lowe, University Press of Mississippi, 1995.

RESOURCES

Articles

The following articles are available full-text from the online database General Reference Center Gold, available at local public and academic libraries.

“Mozart and Leadbelly” (Louisiana's influence on Ernest J. Gaines' writing). **National Forum** Winter 1998 v. 78 no. 1 p. 11 +

Magnier, Bernard. “Ernest J. Gaines” (interview) **UNESCO Courier** April 1995 p. 5+

Vancil, David E. “A Lesson Before Dying” (book reviews). **African American Review** Fall 1994 v. 28 n.3 p. 489+

Papa, Lee. “His Feet On Your Neck’: the New Religion in the Works of Ernest J. Gaines” (Black South Fiction, Art, Culture). **African American Review** Summer 1993 v. 27 no. 2 p. 187.

Summer, Bob. “Ernest Gaines: the Novelist Describes His Arduous Efforts to Educate Himself as a Writer”. **Publishers Weekly** May 24, 1993 v. 240 no. 21 p. 62+

VIDEOGRAPHY

Related Films to Supplement Your Reading

Ernest J. Gaines's Works

A Lesson Before Dying (1999) TV

Don Cheadle, Cicely Tyson, Mekhi Phifer

In the 1940's South, an African-American (Phifer) is convicted of the killing of a white store owner.

A Gathering of Old Men (1987) TV

Louis Gossett Jr., Holly Hunter

Released as **Murder on the Bayou** in video.

The Sky is Gray (1980) TV

Olivia Cole NR

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974) TV

Cicely Tyson

Story of a black woman in the South who was born into slavery in the 1850s and lives to become a part of the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Death Penalty and Death Row

Dead Man Walking (1995)

Susan Sarandon, Sean Penn

True story of a nun whose anti-death penalty beliefs put her in moral crisis with grieving victims when she becomes the spiritual adviser to a death-row murderer.

Executioner's Song (1982) TV

Tommy Lee Jones

The story of Gary Gilmore, a convicted murderer who lobbied for his own execution.

The Green Mile (1999)

Tom Hanks

The story about the lives of guards on death row leading up to the execution of a wrongly accused man who has the power of faith healing.

The Thin Blue Line (1988)

Errol Morris's unique documentary dramatically re-enacts the crime scene and investigation of a police officer's murder in Dallas. Implies that the D.A.'s and judge's desire for the death penalty in this case made Randall Adams a scapegoat on which to pin this heinous crime.

African-American Life in the South in the first half of the 20th century

The Learning Tree (1969)

Kyle Johnson

Story of a 14 year old black boy in the 1920's South, living on the verge of manhood, maturity, love, and wisdom.

Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored (1995)

Al Freeman, Jr.

Story of a black youngster growing up parentless in 1950s Mississippi, facing poverty and racism, but supported by a loving family.

VIDEOGRAPHY (continued)

Partners of the Heart (2002)

Morgan Freeman

During World War II, a black carpenter's apprentice named Vivien Thomas who had a talent for surgery and a white surgeon named Dr. Alfred Blalock defied the medical establishment and created a partnership that changed the course of cardiac surgery.

A Soldier's Story (1984)

Denzel Washington

An African American officer investigates a murder in a racially charged situation in World War II.

Souder (1972)

Paul Winfield, Cicely Tyson

The struggles of a family of black sharecroppers in rural Louisiana during the Depression.

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

Gregory Peck, Brock Peters

Bigotry in a small Mississippi town in the 1930's leads to tragedy with a falsely accused black man the victim.

The Justice System

The Farm: Angola, USA (1998)

Burl Cain, Ashanti Witherspoon

Documentary depicting day to day life in Angola prison mostly from an inmate's perspective. Interviews are with several inmates including one with a life sentence who is about to die.

The Hurricane (1999)

Denzel Washington

The story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a boxer wrongly imprisoned for murder, and the people who aided in his fight to prove his innocence.

Judge Horton and the Scottsboro Boys (1976) TV-Arthur Hill

Courageous judge must battle the South in the famous 1931 case of nine black men accused of attacking two white women.

A Time to Kill (1996)

Matthew McConaughey, Samuel L. Jackson

A lawyer and his assistant fighting to save a father on trial for murder in a powerful story of revenge, racism, and the question of justice in the "New South".

Film descriptions taken from [Videohound's Golden Movie Retriever 2000](#) and the [Internet Movie Database](#)

WEB RESOURCES FOR MORE EXPLORATION

About Ernest J. Gaines: His Life and Writing

www.randomhouse.com/acmart/teacherguides/lesson.html A detailed teaching guide to the book.

www.princeton.edu/~howarth/557/gathering4.html A wonderful article about Gaines from **The Washington Post**.

www.neh.fed.us/news/humanities/1998-07/gaines.html A conversation with Gaines that gives a good sense of his background and his writing.

www.findarticles.com/cf_0/m2278/1_24/58411671/p1/article.jhtml Conversation with the writer was conducted on October 22, 1996, at the University of Bonn (Germany) prior to Ernest Gaines's public reading from **A Lesson Before Dying**.

datebook.seattletimes.nwsources.com/datebook/ae_lit_rlist?MIval=ae_lit_review&pgp_code=1472 Article from The Seattle Times that conveys a good sense of the author.

www.princeton.edu/~howarth/557/gathering3.html A link to a good literary biography of the author.

www.princeton.edu/~howarth/557/gathering2.html **San Francisco Chronicle** article about Gaines.

A Lesson Before Dying

members.accessus.net/~bradley/page10.html Introduction, day-by-day plans, assignments, and chapter-by-chapter study guide questions prepared by a classroom teacher.

www.sparknotes.com/lit/lessonbefore/ Good study guide including chapter analysis, character, and plot analysis. Includes a detailed explanation of key quotations from the novel.

The Times

Capital Punishment

www.uaa.alaska.edu/just/death/history.html#unitedstates Extremely thorough page with links to the history of the death penalty in the U.S.

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cp.htm Official statistics on capital punishment and death row inmates in the U.S.

www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/dpicrace.html Death penalty by race as of 1976 from the Death Penalty Information Center.

www.lcadp.org/la_deathrow_list.htm List of Louisiana Death Row inmates.

The 1940s

<http://www.nhmccd.cc.tx.us/contracts/lrc/kc/decade40.html> Thorough cultural history about the time period that the novel is set in.

WEB RESOURCES FOR MORE EXPLORATION

The Culture

http://www.crt.state.la.us/folklife/main_misc_gaines_foodways.html “Louisiana Foodways in Ernest Gaines’s A Lesson Before Dying”

http://www.crt.state.la.us/folklife/main_misc_gaines_old_men.html Commentary on Gaines’ use of oral tradition

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/cse/cse.htm>
Exhibit and information on Louisiana folklore and traditions

<http://www.cajunculture.com/indexbb.htm>
“Encyclopedia of Cajun Culture”

<http://athena.english.vt.edu/~appalach/essaysS/sharecrop.htm> Share cropping

<http://about.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/who.htm>
“Who was Jim Crow?”

<http://about.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/what.htm>
“What was Jim Crow?”

Interested In Learning More?

Check out your local library for books and more information about the following subjects:

African Americans - social conditions

Southern states - race relations

Rural-urban migration - United States

United States - race relations

Louisiana - history

You can also find an extensive list of other sources at these sites:

www.cincinnati.com/samepage/teens.html

www.cincinnati.com/samepage/race.html

This guide was prepared by:



Baldwin Public Library
www.baldwinlib.org
(248) 647-1700



**Bloomfield Township
Public Library**
www.btpl.org
(248) 642-5800



Canton Public Library
www.cantonpl.org
(734) 397-0999



**Farmington Community
Library**
www.farmlib.org
(248) 553-0300



Independence Township Library
www.metronet.lib.mi.us/INDE/
(248) 625-2212



Rochester Hills Public Library
www.rhpl.org
(248) 650-7150



**West Bloomfield Township
Public Library**
www.wbplib.org
(248) 682-2120

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Everyone's Reading... A Lesson Before Dying Reader's Guide

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Bloomfield Township Public Library
www.btpl.org • (248) 642-5800

Canton Public Library
www.cantonpl.org • (734) 397-0999

Farmington Community Library
www.farmlib.org • (248) 553-0300

Independence Township Library
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